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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,959	02/11/2002	Tomo Baba	111945	2376
25944	7590	12/07/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			LI, SHI K	
P.O. BOX 19928			ART UNIT	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			PAPER NUMBER	
			2613	

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/068,959

Applicant(s)

BABA ET AL.

Examiner

Shi K. Li

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9,17 and 24-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9,17 and 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/20/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 20 September 2006 has been entered.

2. The indicated allowability of claims 1, 9, 17 and 24-26 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Okada et al. (JP Patent Application Pub. 2001-147351) provided in the IDS dated 20 September 2006. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1, 9, 17 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Staiger (PCT Publication WO 98/39861) in view of Okada et al. (JP Patent Application Pub. 2001-147351, reference is made to the English translation).

Regarding claim 1, Staiger discloses in FIG. 5 a transmission system with a plurality of units. FIG. 5 comprises an optical signal transmission section for connecting the units as illustrated in FIG. 1 where optical bus 7 is an optical signal transmission section. Staiger teaches in col. 3, lines 35-38 that the subsystems can be any units communicating with one another, for example, processors, mobile telephones, TVs, navigation units, graphics units audio/video units

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and remote control systems. That is, some of the units of FIG. 5 can be radio signal reception units such as mobile telephones or TVs and some of the units of FIG. 5 can be processors for processing signals received by the mobile telephones or TVs. Therefore, Staiger teaches a plurality of radio signal reception sections and a plurality of reception signal processing sections. The optical bus 7 optically transmits the received signal from the plurality of radio signal reception sections to the plurality of reception signal processing sections. Staiger teaches in FIG. 5 that several users share the same bus. For example, units A, B, and F can communicate with each other via the same sheathed bus. The difference between Staiger and the claimed invention is the optical bus. Okada et al. teaches Drawing 14 the same bus as recited in claim 1. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Okada et al. with the transmission system of Staiger because the bus of Okada et al. gives good utilization effectiveness of light (see paragraph [0008] of detailed description). Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the optical bus of Okada et al. in the transmission system of Staiger because the bus of Okada et al. gives good utilization effectiveness of light.

Regarding claims 9 and 17, the optical bus of Staiger is bi-directional (see col. 6, line 26) and mobile telephones support bi-direction traffic. Therefore, Staiger also teach to send signals from the signal processing sections via the optical transmission section to radio signal transmission sections.

Regarding claims 24-26, Okada et al. teaches in Drawing 14 stepwise portion 56 that input and/or output an optical signal.

Response to Arguments

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5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 9, 17 and 24-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

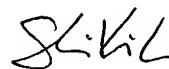
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shi K. Li whose telephone number is 571 272-3031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on 571 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

skl

1 December 2006



Shi K. Li
Patent Examiner